

HOUSE BILL 225

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Nathan P. Cote

AN ACT

RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH; REQUIRING THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO RECRUIT AND TRAIN QUICK RESPONSE TEAMS STATEWIDE FOR USE WITH PERSONS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING AN URGENT NEED FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of Chapter 9, Article 8 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Quick Response Team Act"."

Section 2. A new section of Chapter 9, Article 8 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Quick Response Team Act:

A. "peer support specialist" means a person who has

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1 previously experienced urgent behavioral health needs and
2 recovered and who has successfully completed training
3 qualifying that person to work with a person who experiences an
4 urgent need for behavioral health support;

5 B. "quick response team" means a team consisting of
6 at least one trained peer support specialist or community
7 health care worker, a licensed behavioral health professional
8 and a paramedic; and

9 C. "urgent need for behavioral health support"
10 means an incident in which a person experiences a critical need
11 for emotional, psychological or behavioral health
12 intervention."

13 Section 3. A new section of Chapter 9, Article 8 NMSA
14 1978 is enacted to read:

15 "[NEW MATERIAL] RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING.--

16 A. The department shall recruit, train and certify
17 peer support specialists and health care workers for quick
18 response teams statewide and shall match them throughout the
19 state with behavioral health professionals and paramedics on
20 contract with the department. Qualifications and certification
21 of quick response team members may be detailed in rule by the
22 department.

23 B. The department shall train members of a quick
24 response team in:

25 (1) recognizing mental and behavioral health

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1 disorders, which include:

- 2 (a) schizophrenia;
- 3 (b) schizoaffective disorder;
- 4 (c) bipolar disorder with or without
5 psychotic features;
- 6 (d) brain injury and associated
7 disorders;
- 8 (e) post-traumatic stress disorder; and
- 9 (f) major depressive disorder with or
10 without psychotic features;

11 (2) nonviolent, noncoercive de-escalation
12 techniques;

13 (3) cultural competency and race relations;

14 (4) techniques that foster reconciliation
15 between persons in crisis and their families and friends;

16 (5) using safe, humane and effective
17 approaches to treating or coping with mental and behavioral
18 health disorders; and

19 (6) how to access and cooperate with available
20 health, social service and emergency resources in the area.

21 C. The department shall offer intervention through
22 a quick response team, where appropriate, for a person
23 experiencing an urgent need for behavioral health support,
24 especially when the presence of an armed law enforcement
25 officer may cause alarm or an escalation of tensions.

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